

MINDSHARE

2025 10-11  
SEP

CYBERSECURITY  
LEADERSHIP FORUM

Securing  
Identity for  
our Digital  
Future



Bundesamt  
für Sicherheit in der  
Informationstechnik

Dr. Matthias Peter,  
Bundesamt für Sicherheit  
in der Informationstechnik

VS Cloud  
Requirements and  
Cryptography



# Clouds for Classified

- Cloud adoption is inevitable – even in high-security scenarios
- Cloud advantages: scalability, availability, modern IT architecture
- But only selected benefits apply in high-risk environments
- Challenge: Processing classified information regulated by VSA (General Administrative Provision on Material Security)



# General Conditions

- Cloud architectures handling classified data are VS-IT systems
- Require accreditation under §50 VSA (not §51 product approval)
- Scenario-based assessment is required
- Security Enforcing Services (SES) must be approved under §51 VSA
- Agency head is responsible for accreditation under §50 VSA



# Need for Approval Depends on Scenario

- Scenarios: Private, Community, Public
- Access to the Cloud: required in all
- Perimeter protection: required in Private & Community
- Public Cloud: focus on Data at rest, in transit, in use



# Technical and Cryptographic Evaluation

- Products with security functions (§52 VSA) require approval
- Approval based on BSI approval concept
- Includes CC-like technical evaluation and cryptographic concept (CC: Common Criteria)
- Cryptographic concept covers protocols, primitives, key lifecycle



# General Cryptographic Requirements

- Baseline: BSI TR-02102 (crypto algorithms), AIS 20/31 (RNGs)
- Further requirements from CI-Requirements Profiles (VS-APs)
- Example: Long-term secrets stored in dedicated hardware (e.g., to achieve protection against malware and side-channel attacks)



# Cloud-Specific Cryptographic Requirements

- Challenges known for a long time (see BSI study from 2015):  
<https://www.bsi.bund.de/DE/Service-Navi/Publikationen/Studien/ZufallinVMS/zufall-in-vms.html>
- Lack of smartcard equivalence in virtualized environments
- Workload cloning (keys, identities, RNG states)
- Local RNG: hard to realize without hardware access
- External RNG needs secure channel



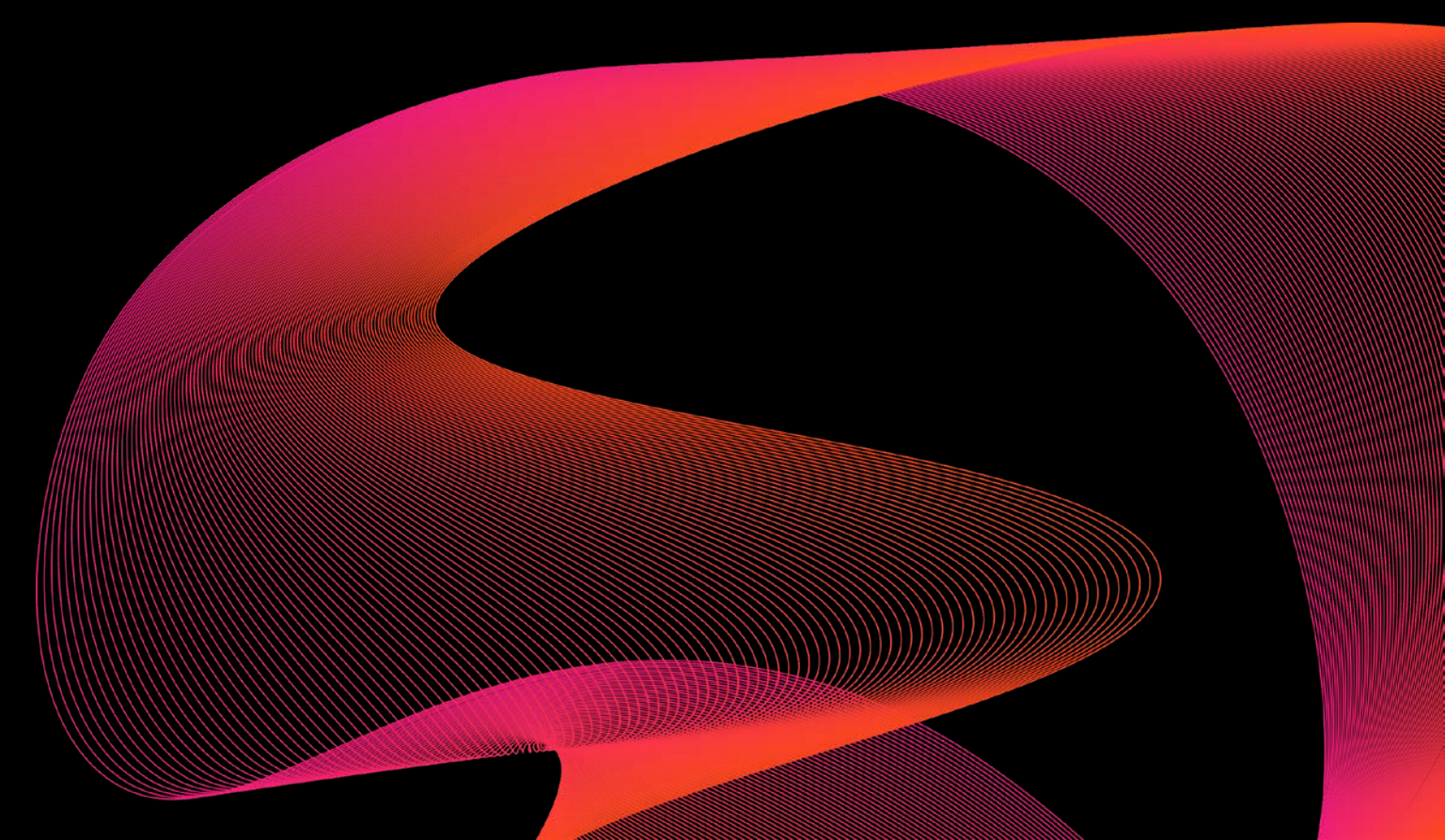
# Solution Patterns

- No universal templates; depend on scenario and risk
- Goal: portfolio of best practices, not rigid rules (proposals welcome)
- The following approaches may support evaluation, but are not mandatory (nor are they sufficient on its own)



# Random Number Generation

- Best: certified RNGs with dedicated noise sources (PTG.3, DRG.4)
- Fallback: NTG.1-compliant software RNG
- Example: Open-source Jitter RNG (towards NTG.1 compliance)





# Storing Long-Term Secrets (Example)

- Trustworthy cloud environment required
- Application establishes secure TLS channel to approved HSM
- User authenticates with strong PIN (limited retries)
- HSM performs operations with secret; secret never leaves HSM
- Strong mitigation against malware compromise





# Questions

Dr. Matthias Peter  
Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der  
Informationstechnik  
[matthias.peter@bsi.bund.de](mailto:matthias.peter@bsi.bund.de)